

REMARKS

The present application is a reissue of U.S. Patent No. 6,510,128 granted on January 21, 2003 for application serial No. 09/864,430 filed on May 24, 2001, which was a divisional application of application No. 09/397,808 filed September 17, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,275,452 issued August 14, 2001.

Claims 1-5 remain in the reissue application. It is submitted that no new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised by the present response.

Applicant acknowledges that submission of the original letters patent or a statement as to loss or inaccessibility of the original letters patent is required, as stated in the Office Action. Applicant has attended to retrieving the original letters patent and will submit the original letters patent immediately upon their availability.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected as being based upon a defective Reissue Oath or Declaration under 35 U.S.C. § 251.

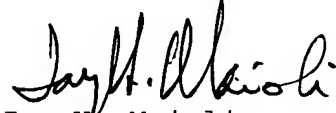
Submitted herewith is a newly-executed Declaration and Power of Attorney for Reissue Application identifying Japanese foreign application No. P10-265278 filed September 18, 1998, upon which foreign priority is being claimed.

The references cited as of interest have been reviewed, but are not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the claims.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required in connection with this Response and to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
COOPER & DUNHAM, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jay H. Maioli  
Reg. No. 27,213

JHM/AVF